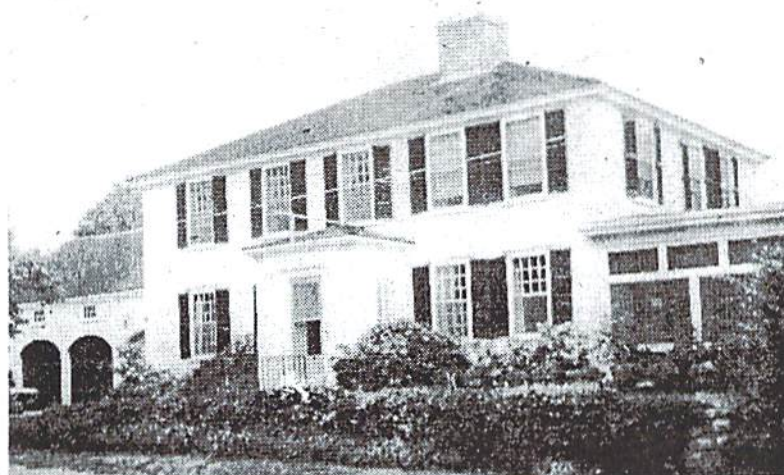


Duxbury Clipper.

June 28, 1973



Early in 1794 Job Samson bought 4 acres 45 rods of land on the north side of a cartway that later became Water St. and midway on that lot he built his house. Job grew up on an inland farm in North Duxbury and left the farm to work in a shipyard, perhaps the Drew and Winsor yard in the Nook, since he married Betsy Winsor, daughter of that shipyard owner.

By 1790 shipyards were mostly located along Blue Fish River and down the bay side, which probably influenced Job to settle on a cartway to the shore near the fast growing ship building area.

It was a modest house that Job built, a three quarters, 2-story, framed house with the same first floor layout as most houses of that time and 2 chambers on the second floor. The framed house was a substantial building, with one floor to this day of heavy thick plants and no underflooring, the marks of the old up and down saw visible on the underside. The interior was plain with none of the decorative trim that came with more prosperous times, a simple comfortable home when Job and Betsy lived there.

There have been many changes in the old house since Job's day. It has been enlarged from a three quarters house to a full house; an ell has been added, perhaps moved on; the barn moved from the east side, where the foundation still shows, to the west side to become part of a garage. The kitchen fireplace with its brick oven is surely behind a smaller fireplace built at a later date. One can see behind the new front over the old oven and, with the old hearth still visible, get a good idea of the fireplace where Betsy Samson did her cooking.

The old cartway to the shore had become Water St., although it is little wider than the 17 fee originally allowed for it; land on either side of the house has been sold off from Job's original purchase; the house has been altered, added to, and modernized to suit present needs; yet the house Job and Betsy Sampson built in 1794 shows through all the changes. So today, in the 18th century house, built before Blue Fish River bridge was built and Washington St. was laid out, and before there was any Duxbury Village, James and Marian Reppert, present owners, look out on the same narrow lane that has always crowded right up against the old Job Samson house.

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